

1891
**WEST VIRGINIA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

TRIO Programs
Upward Bound/Student Support Services
Phone: 304-766-3120
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June 27, 2011

Mrs. Barbara W. Cary
Director TRIO Programs, Upward Bound
West Virginia State University
219 Sullivan Hall
Institute, WV 25112

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51, High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Founded in 1891, West Virginia State University is a public, land-grant, historically black university. We have evolved into a fully accessible, racially integrated, and multi-generational institution. The University, "a living laboratory of human relations," is a community of students, staff, and faculty committed to academic growth, service, and preservation of the racial and cultural diversity of the institution. Our mission is to meet higher education and economic development needs of the state and region through innovative teaching and applied research.

West Virginia State University offers encouragement and education through flexible course offerings in traditional classrooms, in non-traditional education settings, and through distance learning technologies. With the goal of improving the quality of our students' lives, as well as the quality of life for West Virginia's citizens, the University forges mutually beneficial relationships with other educational institutions, businesses, cultural organizations, governmental agencies, and agricultural and extension partners.

I serve as the Director of the TRIO Programs which are federally-funded initiatives to help support low-income and first generation students enter college, graduate from college and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life. We use TRIO funding to support our Upward Bound program which serves 110 - Ninth through Twelfth grade students from Kanawha, Fayette, Putnam and Logan Counties West Virginia.

These students spend six weeks on the campus of West Virginia State University during the summer. Classes include mathematics, science, literature, communications, computers, drama, careers, and much more. The students also travel, attend cultural enrichment activities and live in the Residence Halls. Throughout the year the students benefit from tutoring, academic instruction, assistance with college admissions and financial aid information. The program's success is high with an average of 85% of its graduates going on to a post-secondary education.

I rely on free conferencing services to help administer our Upward Bound program and ultimately help these young students envision and realize their future. I was pleased to discover a service that helps us cost effectively communicate, so, we can achieve our mission.

I am aware the Federal Communications Commission is currently contemplating new rules that may do away with these services. If this service was eliminated, we would have to pay a much higher rate to make conference calls. This would prevent us from using as much funding as possible to reinvest in our students.

As you move forward, I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Cary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barbara" and last name "Cary" clearly distinguishable.

Mrs. Barbara W. Cary
Director TRIO Programs, Upward Bound
West Virginia State University

cc: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn